



# Supervisor John Gioia's District 1 Newsletter

DECEMBER 2006

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## A Message From Supervisor Gioia...

When I look around at this time of year -- the holidays -- I am heartened by the amazing generosity of people in our community. Each day we see, read, or hear about efforts to provide food and gifts to those who can't afford them. There are coat drives, toy drives, food drives, and book drives. Efforts to benefit all ages, from kids to seniors.

People donate what they don't need, write checks, and even make special shopping trips just for items to give.

This care and concern is reassuring. It is especially reassuring during these times when our world, and our neighborhoods, are marked by too much violence.

This community-giving won't solve these large and complex problems. But I like to believe it holds the seeds for solutions, for more peaceful times, for lasting peace. Individual kindness reminds us of the good inside of everyone. I believe this good can prevail.

Inspired by this, I've been thinking about my New Year's resolutions. My wife, Jennifer, gave me a great idea for one resolution. Many people give generously to food drives during the holidays but people are hungry all year round. Starting in 2007, I'm going to suggest that anyone visiting my office or using our conference room (which is open for community use) bring food for the Contra Costa Food Bank. We'll keep a bin year round.

In addition, I will steadily move forward on the Youth Center, a project I've been working on this year. In this newsletter, you'll find an article updating this exciting project, which is near and dear to me professionally and personally. Last, but not least, I am hoping and praying for a more peaceful 2007, around the globe and here at home.

## Violence Prevention at the Heart of Youth Projects

Two projects aimed at helping young people maintain positive lifestyles are moving forward in West County.

Supervisor Gioia is working closely with the Contra Costa Housing Authority, the county Workforce Development Board, and the county Redevelopment Agency on a Young Adult Empowerment Center, located in North Richmond.

The Center, to target 17 – 25-year-olds, will offer career training, life skills classes, and tutoring. There will also be a recreational center.

Services will be available on a drop-in basis, and through scheduled classes.

The goal is for the center, located at the Los Deltas Housing Authority site on Silver Ave., to begin offering services in January 2007, growing with time. The West Contra Costa Unified School District, City of Richmond, and County Library are also partners in the project, which is being funded through a combination of county redevelopment, Workforce Development, and Housing Authority dollars.

Meanwhile, progress is steady on the Richmond Youth Center, a for-youth by-youth multiservice project to be located on 41<sup>st</sup> St. and Bissell Ave. in Richmond.

The Youth Center, which was recently officially named RYSE, (for Richmond Youth Student Empowerment), will offer a range of services to be determined by youth. Ideas on the table include a recording studio, computer arts training, and health services.

The center, to be funded by private and public sources, is being spearheaded by Supervisor Gioia and Youth Together, a community-based nonprofit, with help from a coalition of community groups and government agencies.

For information on either of these projects contact Supervisor Gioia's office at 510-374-3231.

## Community Works With County on El Sobrante's Future

Plans to guide El Sobrante's future growth are making progress, as Supervisor Gioia works closely with residents and county planners on updates to the community's general plan, a blueprint for development.

County planners are working on a general plan amendment to allow mixed-use residential and commercial development along Appian Way and the San Pablo Dam Road, the community's major thoroughfares. Current zoning allows predominately commercial use.

The goal for the amendment is to create a pedestrian-friendly, vibrant commercial district in El Sobrante -- safe and attractive avenues where people can live and shop.

Hundreds of people showed up at two Town Hall meetings held recently on the plans. Most are supportive of the concept, with some expressing concerns about traffic and building height.

The El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) has provided important input into these plans.

Supervisor Gioia recently appointed two new members to the MAC -- Mike Daley (Conservation Director for the Bay Area Sierra Club), and Deborah Butler (Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church on May Road).

County planners are revising the plans with input from the meetings. Next steps include a recommendation by the county Planning Commission, and approval by the Board of Supervisors sometime in 2007. Public hearings will be held at both meetings, with comments welcome.

For more information, including on when the plans will be presented to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, contact Terrance Cheung in Supervisor Gioia's office at 510-374-3231.

## Focus on Survival for Doctor's Hospital

The plight of Doctor's Medical Center in San Pablo is familiar to many West County residents. After losing money in 2005 and 2006, the hospital stopped accepting ambulances, cut services, filed for bankruptcy, and faced imminent closure.

Since the drastic news, Supervisor Gioia has worked hard with a team of county, hospital, legislative, and state health leaders to develop a long-term solution to keeping the hospital open. Doctor's is a public hospital operated by the West Contra Costa Healthcare District, which has an elected board of directors.

A plan approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Healthcare District's Board will result in the County advancing \$10 million to the hospital, which will leverage a \$10 million grant from the Federal Government. This \$20 million cash infusion will prevent the hospital's closure. The County will be paid back through the Healthcare District's property tax revenue over the next four years.

Under a Joint Powers Authority being established between the County and the Healthcare District, a new Management Board will be created with the County having majority control. The new board, of which Supervisor Gioia will be a member, will be responsible for providing management and operational oversight for the hospital.

The County is working with Doctor's to restructure medical services with the goal of creating a financially sustainable hospital. The emergency room has re-opened to ambulances.

Doctor's Hospital and Kaiser Richmond are the two hospitals in West County where ambulances take patients for emergency medical treatment. A 2004 study by the County's Health Services Department concluded that the closure of Doctor's Hospital would quickly overwhelm Kaiser, leading to extraordinary treatment delays. Ambulances would be diverted to other hospitals, such as Berkeley's Alta Bates, subjecting patients to longer ambulance transport times and related risks.

The closure of Doctor's Hospital would also decrease the region's already limited supply of intensive care beds.

## Breakfast Tradition Continues in 2007

Supervisor Gioia will continue his tradition of holding monthly community breakfasts in his district. The breakfasts, held at rotating restaurants and cafes throughout West County, are a chance for the public to ask Supervisor Gioia questions, and chat about county issues. The free events are casual, with no set agendas. Supervisor Gioia buys coffee for all attendees, who can buy a meal if they choose.

The first two breakfasts in 2007 are scheduled for:

Saturday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Central Perk, 10086 San Pablo Avenue (near Central Avenue), El Cerrito

Saturday, February 24, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Rosamaria's, 101 Park Place (next to the Masquers Playhouse), Pt. Richmond

Check Supervisor Gioia's website for locations and dates.

[www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/), or call our office at 510-374-3231.

## Gas Shut-Off Valve Ordinance Step Towards Emergency Preparedness

Did you know that in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake fire caused more damage than the earthquake itself?

To reduce the chance of such a disaster, the County has passed a strict new law which is designed to prevent catastrophic fires or explosions caused by earthquakes. The law, which was proposed by Supervisors Gioia and Federal Glover, requires the installation of gas shut-off valves on all buildings sold after December 1, 2006 in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County.

The West County communities covered by this new law include Kensington, El Sobrante, North Richmond, East Richmond Heights, Rollingwood, Bayview, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, Rodeo and Crockett.

There are two types of valves – those that automatically shut off the gas supply to the entire building and those that shut off gas to a particular appliance (such as a stove or water heater). Both types of valves are triggered by shaking in a major earthquake, preventing a dangerous accumulation of gas. A list of approved shut-off devices is available on the County's Building Inspection Department website at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/bi/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/bi/).

The new law adds to an existing requirement that these shut-off valves be installed on all newly constructed buildings and on any building undergoing significant general renovation costing \$15,000 or more (or \$5,000 or more when fuel gas piping is part of the renovations).

Supervisor Gioia believes the ordinance is an important step in disaster prevention, saving lives and minimizing property damage. He is also encouraging cities and other counties to adopt this requirement.

For more information about the law, contact the Contra Costa Building Inspection Department at (925) 646-4108.

## Ideas For Charitable Giving: During the Holidays or Year Round

It's that time of the year again, when many people get joy from giving to the less fortunate.

Every year we try to help by providing a list of charitable organizations and groups serving West County. It's impossible to include them all, but here's a good start.

Contra Costa County Food Bank	925-676-7543 ext. 204
Girls Inc., Richmond (educational programs)	510-232-5440
Neighborhood House of North Richmond	
(Social service; drug and alcohol treatment)	510-232-2511
Opportunity West (Social Service Programs)	510-236-5812
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)	510 236-7614
Richmond Emergency Food Pantry	510-235-9732
Richmond Police Activities League	510-621-1222
Rubicon Programs (Homeless and employment services)	510-231-3920
San Pablo Food Pantry	510-232-0258
Ujima West (Drug and alcohol treatment for women)	510-215-2280
West Contra Costa Salesian Boys and Girls Club	510-215-4648
Bay Area Rescue Mission	510-215-4884
(Homeless, drug & alcohol treatment)	
The Salvation Army	510-262-0500
Toys For Tots (U.S. Marine Corps.)	925-586-5267



**Picture This!**  
**Volunteers Pitch In to Clean Their Communities**

Communities around West County were busy in fall spiffing up their neighborhoods and natural areas. Supervisor Gioia sponsored several community cleanups including in Montalvin Manor, El Sobrante, and the annual California Coastal Cleanup at Marina Bay in Richmond.



Coastal Clean-up along the Richmond Marina Bay shoreline



Supervisor Gioia with community volunteers including Montalvin Manor Redevelopment Advisory Committee members Antonio Medrano, John Bieth, and Irene Thompson.



Clean-up participants including El Sobrante MAC members Barbara Pendergrass and Tom Owens.

## Office Staff

### **Terrance Cheung**

*Chief of Staff*

El Sobrante Liaison

East Richmond Heights Liaison

### **Cynthia Harvey**

*Office Manager/Scheduler*

### **Luz Gomez**

*Deputy Chief of Staff*

North Richmond Liaison

Montalvin Manor/Bayview Liaison

### **Kate Rauch**

*District Coordinator*

Kensington Liaison

### **Joan Carpenter**

*District Coordinator*

Rollingwood Liaison

### **Contact Us:**

11780 San Pablo Avenue, #D

El Cerrito, CA 94530

(510) 374-3231

(510) 374-3429 Fax

e-mail: [dist1@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:dist1@bos.cccounty.us)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Our Website:**

<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1>

## Other Elected Officials

### **House of Representatives:**

*Congressman George Miller (District 7)*

(510) 262-6500 – Richmond Office

(925) 602-1880 – District Office

*Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (District 10)*

(925) 932-8899 or 757-7187 - District Offices

### **State Senate & Assembly:**

*Senator Tom Torlakson (District 7)*

(925) 602-6593 – District Office

*Senator Don Perata (District 9)*

(510) 286-1333 - District Office

*Assemblywoman Loni Hancock (District 14)*

(510) 559-1406 – District Office

*Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier (District 11 )*

(925) 372-7990 - District Office

## Commission & Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in community issues? Want to get involved? The county has numerous citizen boards that advise the Supervisors on a range of issues. For a complete list of openings check the county's website at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us). Click on Board Advisory Body Information. Applications are available online, or through our office. There are current openings on:

### **Commission For Women**

Advises the board on issues related to women.

M.J. Lanni 925-335-1036

### **El Sobrante R-9 Committee**

Advises the board on park and recreation issues in the El Sobrante valley.

Terrance Cheung 510-374-3231

### **Human Relations Commission**

Advises the board on matters pertaining to improving human relations.

Sharon Cottrell 925-646-5514

### **Youth Commission**

Advises the board in matters related to youth

Joan Tomasini 925-646-5940.

## Regular Public Meetings

### **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Meets at 9am every Tuesday at the County Administration Building, 651 Pine St, in Martinez.

### **El Cerrito City Council**

Meets at 7 pm on the first and third Mondays of every month at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito.

### **El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council**

Meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of every month at the El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, off San Pablo Dam Rd.

### **Kensington Municipal Advisory Council**

Meets at 7 p.m the last Tuesday of every month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington, in Kensington.

### **Montalvin Manor Redevelopment Advisory Committee**

Meet at 6:30pm on the second Thursday of every month at the Montalvin Elementary School on Christine Drive.

### **North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council**

Meets at 5 pm the second Tuesday of every month at 515 Silver Avenue in North Richmond

### **Richmond City Council**

Meets at 7 pm every first and third Tuesday at Richmond City Hall, 1401 Marina Way South, Richmond

### **San Pablo City Council**

Meets at 7 pm. on the first and third Mondays of every month at City Hall, 13831 San Pablo Avenue, Maple Hall, Building Two, San Pablo.